

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE North Kildonan Ward

Jeff Browaty

1. Public transit was identified as the most important issue facing Winnipeggers in the 2019 budget consult, followed by active transportation and roadway construction and maintenance. In your opinion, why is public transit deemed the number one priority?

Public transit is a key municipal service that is valued by the public—whether they use it or not. As the city continues to grow, it is important that an effective, efficient Transit system has the capacity to move a growing number of people. The public has noticed that there have been recent safety issues on our buses and the convenience/frequency of service has declined. The combination of traffic congestion (with the hope other people stop driving and take the bus) and declining service make Transit a key issue for Winnipeggers.

2. If you could give Winnipeg's transit system an overall letter grade, what would it be? What do you feel is holding the current transit system back from getting a better grade? If you could sum up your vision for the future of Winnipeg's transit system what would it be?

C- While our Transit system performs well on many metrics—passengers per dollar of operating subsidy, cost per operating hour, etc., the lack of growth of operating hours while the city has expanded has stretched the system and frequency on what should be our high-frequency network has suffered. I think the best thing we can do to improve ridership and overall service is to focus on a high-frequency network and find alternatives to fixed-route service in low-density suburbs to get people to the high-frequency network. This could include contracted ride-share type services and very small vehicles.

3. Safety is an increasing concern for transit riders and drivers, alike. What do you feel contributes to the lack of safety in the current system? How would you improve safety?

Like much of society, the growing presence of crystal meth in our city has increased petty crimes and behavioural issues. Finding more efficient resources to help people with meth addictions is a key step. Providing separate transit police/security, not transit supervisors that also deal with scheduling and timeliness of buses is needed.

4. If you could sum up Winnipeg's current transit system in 3 words, what would it be?

Value-added, stretched, neglected

5. Cities like Ottawa and Edmonton contribute over \$220 million to their transit networks, while the City of Winnipeg contributes just \$65 million. To match these other cities in per capita terms, Winnipeg should be contributing \$170 million. How will you fight for more funding towards transit?

I want to see Winnipeg Transit continue to be a value-oriented service with lower costs than it's peers. That said, I do believe we need to incrementally, consistently, increase our year-over-year investment in Transit at an amount above inflation and growth.

Bonus question: What is your favourite Transit App and why?

Embark – It provides better multi-modal options than Google Maps and it provides costs for trips. In France earlier this year Google recommended a route that was 5 minutes faster bus cost 3 times as much as an option Embark presented.